/129 cont'd/

755 sick man was lying on the ground, as thin as a stick. When we in-
796 quired about his illness, we learned that he was suffering from stomach trouble, probably caused by careless eating. Since the only medicine we had on hand was a box of "Gardon," we gave him a grain to take. We asked three boys to come back with us to fetch more stomach medicine so that the patient could continue taking it. When we reached our lodgings it was one o'clock in the morning.

Second month, twentieth day. (Saturday)

132 It was rather chilly when we rose early in the morning, and the
157 thermometer read 58° Fahrenheit. When I first arrived here I was surprised to see only a few solitary coconut palms, which was quite different from the dense growths of coconut palms to be found elsewhere in Hainan. Now I began to understand: because this area is adjacent to the interior part of Hainan Island, it is cut off from outside air by several layers of high mountains, and the temperature here is thus lower, and it is not easy for coconut palm trees to grow big in this climate.

126 At eleven o'clock in the morning, we left for Yen-sheng village
764 to watch a burial ceremony. The whole affair, from beginning to end, was filmed with a motion-picture camera by Mr. /130/ Kuang Po-hsiao, as an opportunity of this kind is very hard to come by. The
[171] ceremony was in many instances influenced by Chinese customs, traces of which could be seen in such things as paper banners, mourning garments worn by members of the family, stone tablets for tombstones, etc. The whole ceremony took several hours, and it was not until four in the afternoon that the burial was completed.

123 According to the original plans of our party, we were to split into two groups at this place, from which we would pursue different routes for our excursions. At night we discussed our future plans and decided upon a general outline of the work to be done.

/30 cont./

131 line of demarcation between the two natural regions. So today
648 the actual area of the Miao is northwest of the boundary wall,
[161] limited to the La-erh plateau. Although the Miao area is not
[167] a barren wilderness, the area is small and densely populated,
with a high birth rate leading to population pressure, which has led the Miao to invade the southeastern region. Therefore, whenever there is a Miao rebellion, the whole area /Illus. 7 on p. 31/ /32/ is occupied by them. The territorial limits designated by Yen Ju-yü as the Miao area is not entirely without reason. The Miao regard this area as their native land, and they seldom exceed its limits even in time of strife.

● 132 Climate. — Due to the lack of meteorological records the
[114] climate in the Miao area cannot be accurately described. The authors kept such records along the way during their travels, but they are the data of only a short period and do not represent the climatic conditions of the whole area. We observed that due to the difference in altitude the temperatures of two points within a short distance could be quite different. For instance, according to our record the temperature at Ya-pao-chai on June 10, 1933 at 1:00 P.M. registered 24.5° centigrade, but at So-li, Kan-ch'eng it registered 27° centigrade on June 13 at 1:00 P.M. Ya-pao-chai is situated on the plateau, 850
[361] kung ch'ih above sea level, and therefore is cooler, whereas So-li in the region of downstream river valleys, only 270 kung ch'ih above sea level, is hotter and damper. Formerly,
[164] before the opening of the Miao area, it was a malaria region. On the plateau young rice plants for transplanting have grown only to a height of about one ch'ih by mid-June, whereas in the low river valleys it has already grown to two ch'ih, apparently on account of the different climates. Regarding the climate in the four seasons, the Miao Fang-pei Lan in the "Feng-su K'ao /Study of Customs/" section has this to say: "The climate of the four seasons within the Miao area is different from China Proper. Thick fog frequently enshrouds the place, clearing slightly at noon. When the fog is thick, men and animals cannot see each other even face to face, and it is difficult to move

M /32 cont./
132 a ts'un. Excessive rain continues throughout the spring and summer for weeks and months, rendering the place muddy and difficult for travel. As soon as the rains let up, the steaming atmosphere penetrates the bones. The spring water flowing from rocky mountain hollows is very cool and upsets the stomach when drunk. The climate is so bad that outsiders living there are liable to become sick. This is what Ma Fu-po said: "Alas, Wu Ch'i is full of poison." In autumn and winter the frost and snow fall early, the distant hollows and lonely peaks being piled with accumulated snows for many months without melting. Often hailstorms pelt the land and icicles hang from the eaves to the ground as big as pillars. To go in and out of a house the Miao have to break open the ice with sticks. If one goes up six li it is especially extreme. Even the birds run away from the cold weather. Since the area has been developed and the Miao civilized, there have been less rainy weather, fewer freezes, and birds have come back to nestle in the trees." This quotation gives some general ideas about the climate of the Miao area. But today, the Miao area, having been developed for a long time, has no more jungle, and although the climate remains the same, the geographical environment has been greatly changed. The former malaria-ridden wilderness has become thickly populated areas.

M [312]

C 712 [421] [361] Settlements. — The distribution and types of Miao settlements vary according to the topography and ethnic group. The Chinese generally live in a ch'eng /city/, a pao /fort/, a t'un or in the neighborhood of a stone guard house. The city is /Illus. 8 faces p. 33/ /33/ larger than the pao and the t'un smaller than the pao. So the important Chinese settlements are the paos and t'uns. Paos and t'uns are more numerous in the Miao area than in any other region. The origin of their construction is referred to in Miao Fang-pei Lan in the Ch'eng Pao P'ien /Section on Cities and Forts/ as follows: "According to the Feng-huang subprefecture's negotiations for improvements and memorial to the throne to repair the paos, Te-sheng-ying /Victory Barracks/ (Illus. 9) and Liao-chia-ch'iao /Liao-chia Bridge/, the defense commissioner

4:Mickey E-5 (1940-?)1947 AE5 Miao AE5

491 tween strategic points in "free China" led to the construction of motor roads through Kweiyang from Kunming in Yünnan to Chungking in Szechuan and from Kweiyang east to cities in Hunan and Kwangsi, following the old imperial highway from Peking. Others lead from Kweiyang south to Ting-fan and from the Kweiyang-Chungking road into the northwestern part of the province. A railway in process of construction from Kiangsi to Kweiyang had been brought as far as Tu-yün, but the Japanese in their "farthest west" tore

[132]

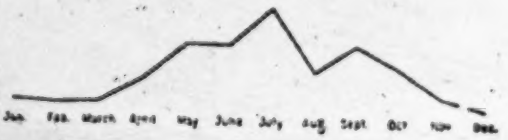

FIG. 2. Average monthly precipitations over a four-year period at Kweiyang.

491 up the tracks. Still most of the travel over the province must be by stone roads or mountain paths, suitable only for pack animals and coolies. In the northwest these paths are so steep that the traveler ascends by following his pony and holding onto its tail. Throughout much of Kweichow the motor road is an exhilarating roller coaster, made the more exciting by the habit drivers have of coasting down the hills to save fuel. Brakes must be good.

132 Kweichow has a monsoon climate, in which the wind blows from the south and southeast in the summer and from the north and northeast in the winter. The parts of the province bordering on Hunan and Kwangsi are considered humid and unhealthy because of the prevalence of malarial fever. The temperatures are related to altitude rather than latitude, ranging from 86 to 14 degrees Fahrenheit. In general the climate is of the Yünnan plateau type, "ameliorated tropical," almost temperate. The annual rainfall is estimated at something over 39.5 inches. Observations (fig. 2) at Kweiyang[2] on rainfall over a four-year period give the following monthly precipitations in mm.: January, 29.5; February, 22.5; March, 27.5; April, 85.1; May, 165.7; [40]

[2] Lat. 26° 18' N., long. 106° 40'.

4:Mickey E-5 (1940-?)1947 AE5 Miao AE5

132 June, 164.5; July, 247.9; August, 97.6; September, 164.5; October, 113.4; November, 45.1; December, 15.4, a total of 1169 mm., or 46.02 inches. The number of rainy days during the year averaged 168.5. There may be rapid changes of temperature. From October to February a peculiar fog fills the valleys; in some years there may be only twenty-five sunny days during that period. In Kweiyang I have known the sun to show itself through the thinner clouds only twice during January.

Although I had with me no means of keeping a record of variations in temperature and rainfall, references in my notes to the weather throughout the year would indicate that conditions in Ting-shui-pa paralleled quite closely those recorded in Kweiyang over a four-year period. This is to be expected since Ting-shui-pa is approximately thirty miles from Kweiyang as the crow flies, and at almost the same altitude. In Kweiyang the rainiest month of the year was July, with moderate to heavy rainfall April through June, and August through October and the remainder of the year comparatively dry. My notes indicate that July was indeed a very rainy month with "drenching rain" and "a solid week of rain, followed by sun and showers mixed, then more downpours." In March, April, and May there were periods of warm, sunny days broken by thunder showers or a few days of rain, but toward the end of May and during the first part of June there were hard rains, not always during the day, followed by a period when it was cloudy but there was no rain. August and September seem to have been generally fine and hot, but toward the end of September bad weather began, with mist and wind from the northeast. October and November were very wet, rainy or gray, misty days outnumbering the even partly sunny ones, but in November and December there were also some fine, sunny days. January and February continued to be cold and there was often a heavy mist. There was freezing weather early in December. In February there was ice and frost all over the mountains for two days and ice thick enough on the rice fields so that the children cut pieces of it out and carried them about. [4b]

[132 cont.]

443 Even today they do not have a single market fair within the area and this shows how circumscribed is the sphere of their economic activity. Their only means of livelihood is agriculture. Almost 243 all the fields are terraced according to natural topography, rising from the bottom of the slope to the top in several hundred layers. The shape of the field is long and narrow, producing rice, wheat, corn and barley. These terraced fields are not fertile [242] and the Sheng Miao do not know how to apply fertilizer. Further- ● [132] more, the temperature in the whole area is very low, and a plentiful harvest is not possible. The proverb says that "when the soil is barren, the people must be poor." Although the 511 Sheng Miao toil all year round in the hard struggle for survival, they can only eke out a bare existence. Being in direct contact with them, the writer could watch at close quarters their extremely miserable conditions, which are pitiable indeed. Because of their ignorance they do not know how to save or to improve the method of production. In case of famine they cannot escape starvation, [133] which is the most important reason for the decrease in their population.

105 In our study of the Miao culture we find it varies with different ethnic units and localities, each having its peculiar traits. The distinguishing features of the Sheng Miao, who differ a great deal from the other tribes, are as follows:

1. Ignorant and straightforward, they are easily duped. They are ready to proclaim themselves "kings" and to create disturbances.

2. The men are black in complexion, red-eyed, dishevelled, and tall and big in stature.

3. Up to this day not a single one of them can talk fluent Chinese.

4. There are peculiar styles of costumes for men and women.

5. Their staple food is glutinous rice, supplemented by raw meat, raw blood, bees, locusts, centipedes, earthworms, tree worms, sand worms, water worms, mountain rats and lizards.

6. The women are fond of smoking leaf tobacco.

163 Moreover, the birthrate among the Meo is one of the highest
165 of the high region and it is not rare to see six or seven children about each of their little houses. On the other hand, very high infant mortality operates to slow down the population's rate of increase. It is owing to the winter cold against which the Meo do not protect themselves by closing up their houses better and covering themselves more warmly. Be that as it may, we can foresee that in a more or less distant future, their tribes, no longer able to find nourishment in the mountains where they are settled, and driven along by new immigrations, will gradually come to overflow into the high valleys at less elevated altitudes, and will take the place of the Thai whose birthrate is very much lower.

Section 3

Dwellings

131 Sometimes Meo dwellings are found at the bottom of a cirque
342 situated on an elevated plateau, as at Dongvan, which is at a thousand
132 meters of altitude, but this is rather exceptional. In fact the Meo prefers to build his cabin on slopes with difficult approaches and near the summit of the mountains. The house usually is built on a small natural spur or platform cut into the side of the mountain, not far from a small ravine which provides him with water with the aid of a bamboo conduit. The roof is of straw or planks laid like tiles, the walls of pise or planks roughly joined, or yet of round logs placed one on the other, the doors wooden and fashioned with an axe. They almost never have windows. For light and air they rely on the interstices between the /133/planks or logs and on one of the gables whose upper triangle is open to every wind. In constucting his dwelling the Meo, who is still so industrious and thoughtful in his other tasks, shows himself to be most shortsighted. By building it with a little more care, and especially by stopping up both of its gables, he would keep away from his little family much of the bronchitis which comes each winter to threaten the lives of his loved ones. We have seen at 2,000 meters altitude and in zero temperature /centigrade/, little youngsters hugging the fire in a miserable wooden cabin with no other clothing than short cloth jackets. They stretched out their bare body and little hands to the flames, while shivering and coughing in a pitiful fashion, and the parents, accustomed to this spectacle, had no

131 idea of covering them or closing up the gable where glacial air poured
342 in.

132 In the rear of the cabin is found a little corridor which separates
342 it from the earthen wall hewn into the mountain. The front is provided with a narrow veranda where horses are stabled in stalls enclosed by round logs.

342 The interior of the house, which rests directly on packed
356 earth, is usually divided into three compartments. In the first is the
352 kitchen where the women habitually work. The cooking-ranges are of clay and are very large. They serve not only for cooking food for the family, but also to prepare the vegetable pastes which make up food for the farmyard animals. The household implements and the various agricultural tools are likewise kept in this room.

The one in the middle is the reception room, where the men gather after work around a great fire lighted in the middle of the room in a square bed of clay. Above this hearth is suspended a bamboo framework on which crops are placed to dry.

The third room contains sleeping compartments, simply small booths, separated from one another by partitions of bamboo or planks. Their sole furniture is a cot. The interior appearance of these dark holes is not at all tempting. In the greatest disorder one may see padded quilts losing their cotton through numerous rips and other belongings of questionable cleanliness.

343 /134/ In front of the house, the pig sty, very well cared
for, is suspended above the slope by oaken beams and planks. Next to it, also hung above the void, is located a little shed which serves as a storage place for rice and maize.

352 The house is not without furniture like the Tho cabins. There
241 are tables, benches, cots of wood, all kinds of household utensils or tools, and even musical instruments. All around the Meo plant fruit trees and cultivate beds of vegetables here and there.

342 The type of dwelling which we have just described has nothing
352 which cannot be changed. Poor people and newly weds who are still getting settled simply build a thatched cottage whose sidewalls are made of corn stalks not too tightly joined together, whose spaces freely permit passage of the winter's cold north wind. When evening comes they simply throw a few armfuls of corn stalks into a corner and pass the night on this thinly padded couch.

Akha A04
Miao AE5

/25 cont./

A 131 vicinity of the Mekong mountain gorge, and that large groups are settled in the eastern parts of Thailand and Indochina, especially east and north of the Mekong in upper Laos. The same author further asserts that many Akha entered Kengtung from the east by way of the Mekong Valley.

A 131 174 In addition to the ethnic groups in the eastern part of Thailand, I have found some in the north. According to my information, based on their traditions, these Akha of northern Thailand migrated south from the mountains north of Kengtung and, by way of Söma, Kengtung, Buta, Batya, and Bako, finally reached the Doy Tung, which, as a primitive mountain massif, projects out into the river valleys, and the Kaye, a mountain west of the Doy Tung. These regions, in addition to the calcareous mountains east of Nan, may be regarded as the southernmost habitation area of the Akha at present.

Like the Meau, the Akha, too, are in the midst of a migration whose main direction, aside from local deviations, is from north to south.

/26/

Chapter 4

Description of the Country.

M 131 133 Today the Meau occupy parts of South and West China, of North China, Indochina, northern Thailand, and, here and there, northeast Burma. One would be inclined to assume that under these circumstances the character of the land would be very diverse. Actually, however, it is not, since these mountain tribes do not settle below a certain altitude. In almost M 133 137 all cases, therefore, we find extensive hilly areas, generally covered with tropical monsoon forests, which, like the European deciduous forests, lose most of their leaves at a given season (the dry season). Two strongly marked seasons of the year are distinguished: the cold rainy season lasts from April M 132 to November; the dry season prevails during the remaining months. During the rainy season there are quite low temperatures and snowstorms, especially at higher altitudes and in the north.